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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **EN-GENEIC MOLECULAR DELIVERY PTY LTD.** [AU/AU]; 105 Delhi Road, Riverside Corporate Park, North Ryde, New South Wales 2113 (AU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **BRAHMBHATT, Himanshu** [AU/AU]; 96 Prairie Vale Road, Bossley Park, Sydney, New South Wales 2176 (AU). **MACDIARMID, Jennifer** [AU/AU]; 8 Lombard Street, Glebe, Sydney, New South Wales 2037 (AU).

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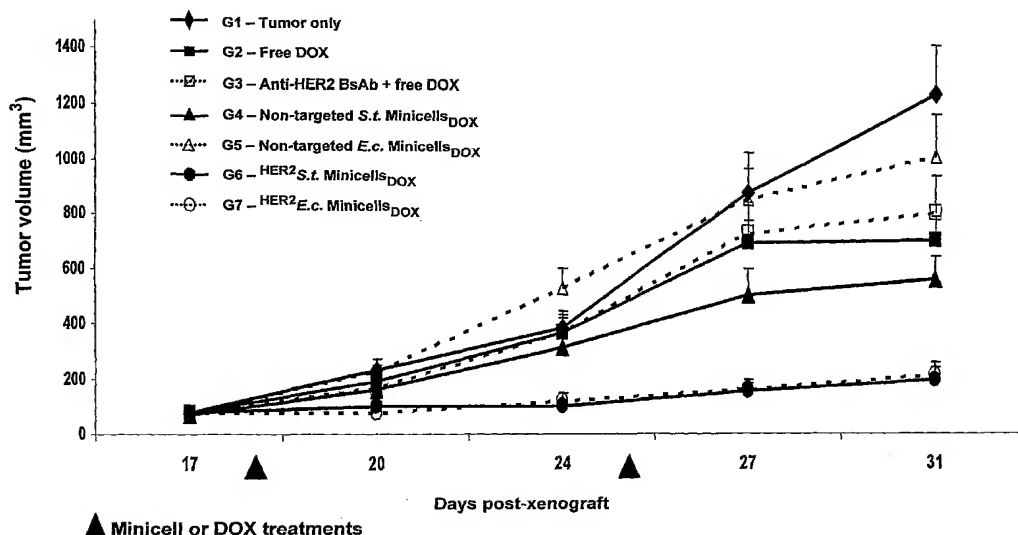
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(54) Title: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS FOR TARGETED IN VITRO AND IN VIVO DRUG DELIVERY TO MAMMALIAN CELLS VIA BACTERIALLY DERIVED INTACT MINICELLS



(57) Abstract: A composition comprising intact minicells that contain a drug molecule is useful for targeted drug delivery. One targeted drug delivery method employs bispecific ligands, comprising a first arm that carries specificity for a bacterially derived minicell surface structure and a second arm that carries specificity for a mammalian cell surface receptor, to target drug-loaded minicells to specific mammalian cells and to cause endocytosis of the minicells by the mammalian cells. Another drug delivery method exploits the natural ability of phagocytic mammalian cells to engulf minicells without the use of bispecific ligands.

WO 2005/079854 A1